

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

ECE 150 *Fundamentals of Programming*

Binary and hexadecimal numbers

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Outline

- In this lesson, we will:
 - Learn about the binary numbers (bits) 0 and 1
 - See that we can represent numbers in binary
 - Quickly introduce binary arithmetic and multiplication
 - It is completely parallel to decimal addition and subtraction
 - Consider a more compact representation: hexadecimal
 - The translation between binary and hexadecimal uses a very simple *look-up table*

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Counting

- We count in base 10 (called *decimal* counting), meaning we have 10 unique digits, and then we use a *positional number system* to represent larger numbers
 - Once we get to the largest number in any position, we increment the next highest unit
- Base 10 is really only useful for humans: we have ten fingers
 - Our clock, however, is a hybrid:
 - There are 60 seconds in a minute
 - There are 60 minutes in an hour
 - There are 24 hours in a day
 - You know that
 - One second after 23:59:59 is 0:00:00 the next day
 - The next highest number after 999 is 1000

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Counting

- Base 10 is great for humans: we have five fingers on each hand
- It's more difficult for computers:
 - Numbers are stored as voltages
 - If you want ten different voltages representing ten different digits, you must recognize and store these voltages—this is very difficult
 - It is easier to store, access and manipulate just two voltages:
 - Say 0 V and 5 V
 - This leaves us with two digits only, say 0 and 1
 - We will describe 0 and 1 as **binary digits** or **bits**

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Counting in binary

- If we only accept two bits (0 and 1, or 0 V and 5 V), it may seem much worse, but it's still manageable:

0b0
0b1
0b10
0b11
0b100
0b101
0b110
0b111
0b1000
0b1001



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Counting in binary

- Question: Is 100 equal to 10^2 or 4?
 - We will usually:
 - Prefix binary numbers with "0b"
 - Use the monospaced typeface Consolas
 - Thus:
 - 100011010 is a large decimal number
 - 0b11110110010 is binary for 1970
 - To start, we will gray-out the "0b"



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Counting in binary

- These first ten non-zero binary numbers could therefore represent the number of "I"s shown here

0b0	
0b1	I
0b10	II
0b11	III
0b100	IIII
0b101	IIIII
0b110	IIIIII
0b111	IIIIIII
0b1000	IIIIIIII
0b1001	IIIIIIII
0b1010	IIIIIIII
0b1011	IIIIIIII



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Counting in binary

- Normally, however, we just indicate the decimal number that it is equivalent to

0b0	0
0b1	1
0b10	2
0b11	3
0b100	4
0b101	5
0b110	6
0b111	7
0b1000	8
0b1001	9
0b1010	10
0b1011	11





Counting in binary

- In decimal, each successive digit represents a higher power of ten:

10	10^1
100	10^2
1000	10^3
10000	10^4

- In binary, each successive digit represents a higher power of two:

$0b10$	$2^1 = 2$
$0b100$	$2^2 = 4$
$0b1000$	$2^3 = 8$
$0b10000$	$2^4 = 16$



Counting in binary

**There are only 10 types
of people in the world.**

**Those who understand binary,
and those who do not.**



Binary integers

- For example, in decimal, the number

280973

represents

$$2 \times 10^5 + 8 \times 10^4 + 0 \times 10^3 + 9 \times 10^2 + 7 \times 10^1 + 3 \times 10^0$$

- In binary, the number

$0b101010$

represents

$$1 \times 2^5 + 0 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0 = 42$$



Binary real numbers

- Similarly,

280.973

Uses a "decimal point"

represents

$$2 \times 10^2 + 8 \times 10^1 + 0 \times 10^0 + 9 \times 10^{-1} + 7 \times 10^{-2} + 3 \times 10^{-3}$$

- In binary, the number

$0b101.010$

Uses a "radix point"

represents

$$1 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 + 0 \times 2^{-1} + 1 \times 2^{-2} + 0 \times 2^{-3} \\ 4 + 1 + 0.25 = 5.25$$

Note: Every decimal integer is followed by an implied decimal point
Every binary integer is followed by an implied radix point





4-bit translation

- Instead, note that there are 16 different quadruple of binary digits:

0b0000	0
0b0001	1
0b0010	2
0b0011	3
0b0100	4
0b0101	5
0b0110	6
0b0111	7
0b1000	8
0b1001	9
0b1010	10
0b1011	11
0b1100	12
0b1101	13
0b1110	14
0b1111	15



4-bit translation

- Represent every quadruple with a unique digit:

0b0000	0
0b0001	1
0b0010	2
0b0011	3
0b0100	4
0b0101	5
0b0110	6
0b0111	7
0b1000	8
0b1001	9
0b1010	a
0b1011	b
0b1100	c
0b1101	d
0b1110	e
0b1111	f

This is called a look-up table

We ran out of digits...
...we could pick digits from another language, say Arabic?



4-bit translation

- Always start by grouping binary digits around the radix point and add extra zeros at the start to make a multiple of 4 binary digits:

0b0000	0	0b000100101010010001000100110110111
0b0001	1	1 2 a 4 8 9 b 7
0b0010	2	
0b0011	3	
0b0100	4	
0b0101	5	
0b0110	6	
0b0111	7	
0b1000	8	
0b1001	9	
0b1010	a	
0b1011	b	
0b1100	c	
0b1101	d	
0b1110	e	
0b1111	f	

This binary number is represented by 0x12a489b7
– We will prefix this with "0x"



4-bit translation

- To go the other way, just replace of our 4-bit translations by the corresponding quadruple:

0b0000	0	6 c f 0 d 5 3 e
0b0001	1	0b011011001111000011010100111110
0b0010	2	
0b0011	3	
0b0100	4	
0b0101	5	
0b0110	6	
0b0111	7	
0b1000	8	
0b1001	9	
0b1010	a	
0b1011	b	
0b1100	c	
0b1101	d	
0b1110	e	
0b1111	f	

This 4-bit translation represents
0b11011001111000011010100111110

– We stripped off the leading 0





Hexadecimal numbers

- What we are actually doing is representing the numbers in base 16
 - This is called *hexadecimal* (base six-and-ten)
 - Often abbreviated as “hex”
 - This is where the “x” comes from in “0x”
 - Again just like

binary uses two digits:	0 and 1
decimal uses ten digits:	0 through 9
hexadecimal uses sixteen digits	0 through f
- It is used for nothing more than a compact representation of binary
 - Conversion between decimal and hex and vice versa is difficult
 - To convert between binary and hex is easy
 - Just remember to always start at the radix point



Hexadecimal numbers

- What you really need to know for this course: $9 + 1 = a$, $f + 1 = 10$
 - These are consecutive hexadecimal numbers

0x27a932f8	0x27a93307
0x27a932f9	0x27a93308
0x27a932fa	0x27a93309
0x27a932fb	0x27a9330a
0x27a932fc	0x27a9330b
0x27a932fd	0x27a9330c
0x27a932fe	0x27a9330d
0x27a932ff	0x27a9330e
0x27a93300	0x27a9330f
0x27a93301	0x27a93310
0x27a93302	0x27a93311
0x27a93303	0x27a93312
0x27a93304	0x27a93313
0x27a93305	0x27a93314
0x27a93306	0x27a93315
0x27a93307	0x27a93316



Summary

- Following this lesson, you now
 - Understand that computer use binary numbers
 - Know that the digits 0 and 1 are called bits
 - Binary numbers are prefixed by “0b”
 - See that binary addition and multiplication mirrors decimal addition and multiplication
 - Understand that binary numbers are verbose and hexadecimal representations are more compact
 - Hexadecimal numbers are prefixed by “0x”
 - Know how to translate between binary and hexadecimal and back
 - You don’t care what decimal value a hexadecimal number is...



References

- [1] Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binary_number
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hexadecimal>
https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hexadecimal_numeral_system





Colophon

These slides were prepared using the Georgia typeface. Mathematical equations use Times New Roman, and source code is presented using Consolas.

The photographs of lilacs in bloom appearing on the title slide and accenting the top of each other slide were taken at the Royal Botanical Gardens on May 27, 2018 by Douglas Wilhelm Harder. Please see

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